

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 12, 16, 19 and 22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 13-15 and 17 are canceled, claims 1-7, 12, 16 and 19 are amended, and claim 22 is added. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-7, 12, 16 and 19 are amended for claim dependency purposes only and not to overcome prior art.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Garrett in the January 30, 2004 personal interview.

I. Pending Claims 1-7, 12, 16, 19 and 22 Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7, 12-17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,046,543 to Bulovic et al. Claims 13-15 and 17 have been canceled. Thus, the rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the pending claims.

Bulovic does not disclose or suggest an organic electroluminescence element comprising, *inter alia*, at least one of the first and second electrode layers having slopes that are arranged substantially around the flat surface, the at least one of the first and second electrode layers being formed on a convex section, as set forth in independent claim 1.

Support for this feature is found in the original specification, at least in Figs. 2-4 and 6, and their associated description, including paragraphs [0053], [0057], [0058] and [0068]-[0070].

Further, Bulovic fails to disclose or suggest "at least one of the first and second electrode layers having slopes that are arranged substantially around the flat surface, the slopes being formed on rim sides of a pixel, and the slopes falling outwardly from a pixel region" recited in independent claim 2. Support for this feature is found in the original specification, at least in Figs. 2-4 and 6, and their associated description.

In contrast, Bulovic, as shown in Figs. 3A-3D and 4A, discloses that the slopes rise outwardly from the pixel region.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 2 are patentable over Bulovic. Claims 3-7, 12, 16 and 19, which depend from independent claim 1, also are patentable over the applied reference for at least the reasons discussed above. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

New claim 22 recites additional features of the invention. Support for the features set forth in claim 22 is found in the original specification, at least in Figs. 2-4 and 6, and their associated description. Applicant submits that new claim 22, which depends on independent claim 1, also is patentable over Bulovic for at least the reasons set forth above.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-7, 12, 16, 19 and 22 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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